

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 307291
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:GWSCOTT:CJ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION USNATO

S E C R E T STATE 307291

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, OPS, ET, UR, YS, DJ, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET OVERFLIGHTS OF DJIBOUTI

REF: DJIBOUTI 761

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1. ALTHOUGH DEPARTMENT REMAINS CONCERNED BY MASSIVE
SOVIET OVERFLIGHT SUPPORT FOR ETHIOPIA, WE TOO ARE UNABLE TO
SEPARATE PROBLEM FROM BACKDROP OF INTERNAL/ EXTERNAL PROB-
LEMS WITH ETHIOPIA. WE THEREFORE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT
DJIBOUTI IS THE PLACE TO ATTEMPT TO BLOCK SOVIET OVERFLIGHTS.
IN OUR VIEW, DJIBOUTI REMAINS A VITAL ELEMENT IN LONG-TERM
STABILITY OF HORN, AND IMPROVEMENT OF DJIBOUTI RELATIONS

WITH EPMG IS OF FIRST IMPORTANCE AT PRESENT TIME. THEREFORE WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT SERVES DJIBOUTI'S INTEREST OR THAT OF OURSELVES THAT PRESIDENT GOULED RAISE THIS QUESTION WITH EPMG. (IT MIGHT HOWEVER LATER BE USEFUL TO GROD TO REMIND EPMG THAT DJIBOUTI DELIBERATELY DID NOT ISSUE PROTEST OF OVERFLIGHTS.)

2. WE HAVE CONSIDERED POSSIBILITY OF TAKING OVERFLIGHT QUESTION TO UN. WHILE USSR HAS NO VALID ARGUMENT TO EXCUSE UNAUTHORIZED OVERFLIGHTS, THE SUBJECT LEADS TO A WHOLE SERIES OF OTHER QUESTIONS SUCH AS FACTS SOVIETS ARE RESPONDING TO ETHIOPIAN REQUEST FOR DEFENSIVE

ASSISTANCE AGAINST SOMALI ATTACK AND THAT AFRICANS PERCEIVE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF AN AFRICAN NATION AS THE CENTRAL ISSUE. SUCH POINTS ARE SUFFICIENTLY CONTENTIOUS AS TO MAKE HANDLING OF SUBJECT IN UN FORUM DIFFICULT FOR ALL CONCERNED. FURTHER, IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO SUBSTANTIATE THE FACT OF MANY SUCH OVERFLIGHTS WITHOUT DELVING INTO SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS. WE HAVE THEREFORE CONCLUDED THAT RAISING OVERFLIGHTS OR THE HORN QUESTION AT THE UN AT THIS TIME WOULD NOT SERVE TO BRING SOMALIA AND ETHIOPIA CLOSER TO THE OAU NEGOTIATED SOLUTION WHICH WE SUPPORT. NOR, SO FAR AS WE CAN TELL, WOULD SUCH A MOVE BE FAVORED EITHER BY SOMALIA, OR
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ETHIOPIA. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Concepts: MILITARY FLIGHT CLEARANCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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From: STATE
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771218/aaaaaoli.tel
Line Count: 95
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Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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